

## CLAIMS

### WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A confederacy comprising:  
a network;  
a plurality of devices coupled via said network, at least one of said devices having a resource; and  
5 means for automatically effecting communication with respect to said resource between said device having said resource and at least one other of said devices coupled via said network.
2. The invention of Claim 1 wherein said network is an intranet.
3. The invention of Claim 1 wherein said resource is embedded web content.
4. The invention of Claim 1 said means for automatically effecting communication being an agent residing on at least one of said devices.
5. The invention of Claim 4 wherein said agent resides on said device having said resource.
6. The invention of Claim 5 further including an agent running on each device on said network.
7. The invention of Claim 6 wherein each agent running on each of said devices on said network is implemented in software.
8. The invention of Claim 7 wherein said agents include code for establishing said confederacy.

9. The invention of Claim 8 wherein said agents include code for joining said confederacy.

10. The invention of Claim 8 wherein said agents include code for providing a consistent view of web content embedded on at least one of said devices.

11. The invention of Claim 8 wherein at least one device includes memory for caching an object value from a device in said confederacy.

12. The invention of Claim 8 wherein at least one of said agents includes code for allowing each member to act as a portal.

13. The invention of Claim 8 wherein said agents include code for monitoring changes at said other devices in said confederacy.

14. The invention of Claim 8 wherein said agent includes code for verifying that a member device is active and in the confederacy.

15. A confederacy comprising:

a network;

a plurality of devices coupled via said network; and

a software agent running on each device for establishing a confederacy

5 therebetween.

16. The invention of Claim 15 wherein said network is an intranet.

17. The invention of Claim 15 wherein each agent running on each of said devices on said network is implemented in software.

18. The invention of Claim 15 wherein said agents include code for joining said confederacy.

19. The invention of Claim 18 wherein said agents include code for providing a consistent view of web content embedded on at least one of said devices.

20. The invention of Claim 18 wherein at least one device includes memory for caching an object value from a device in said confederacy.

21. The invention of Claim 18 wherein at least one of said agents includes code for allowing each member to act as a portal.

22. The invention of Claim 18 wherein said agents include code for monitoring changes at said other devices in said confederacy.

23. The invention of Claim 18 wherein said agent includes code for verifying that a member device is active and in the confederacy.

24. A method for establishing a confederacy including the steps of:  
coupling a plurality of devices via a network, at least one of said devices having a resource and

5 automatically effecting communication with respect to said resource between said device having said resource and at least one other of said devices coupled via said network.